

CLAIMS

1. A strip for use in manufacturing a flexible pipe or tube, said strip comprising a thermoplastic matrix with reinforcing elements,
5 characterized in that said strip further comprises a barrier layer, said barrier layer being bonded to said thermoplastic matrix.
2. A strip according to claim 1, wherein said reinforcing elements are elongated metal elements such as steel wires or steel cords.
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3. A strip according to any one of the preceding claims, wherein said barrier layer is of a thermoplastic material, which is co-extruded or co-laminated with said thermoplastic matrix.
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4. A strip according to claim 3, wherein said thermoplastic material of said barrier layer is selected of a group consisting of fluoropolymers, polyethylene vinyl alcohol, polyamides, polymers with liquid crystals, halogenids of polyvinylidene, polyacrylonitriles, ...
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5. A strip according to any one of claims 1 to 2 wherein said barrier layer is a continuous metal layer.
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6. A strip according to claim 5 wherein said continuous metal layer has been laminated on said thermoplastic matrix.
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7. A strip according to claim 5 wherein said continuous metal layer has been vacuum deposited on said thermoplastic matrix.
8. A strip according to any one of the preceding claims, said thermoplastic matrix having a matrix width, said barrier having a barrier width, said barrier width exceeding said matrix width so that said barrier has one or two zones which are not bonded to said matrix.

9. A strip according to claim 8, wherein said strip barrier has only one zone which is not bonded to said matrix.
10. A strip according to any one of the preceding claims, wherein said thermoplastic matrix at the side opposite to said barrier layer has been modified or is provided with a tie layer for promoting the adhesion with the material of the flexible pipe or tube.
11. A flexible pipe or tube comprising a strip according to any one of the preceding claims.
12. A method of manufacturing a flexible pipe or tube, said method comprising the steps of:
 - a) providing a cylindrical core;
 - b) providing a thermoplastic matrix strip;
 - c) bonding a barrier layer to said thermoplastic matrix strip;
 - 15 d) helically winding said thermoplastic matrix strip with said barrier layer around said cylindrical core.